STAT

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL 15 September 1984

FERRARO: SPEND MORE ON EDUCATION, LESS ON MILITARY SCHEMES BY DAVID LAWSKY SYRACUSE, NY

Geraldine Ferraro attacked President Reagan Saturday, saying the United States should spend more money on education and less on miltary adventures in Central America and Lebanon.

Her remarks came during a full day of campaigning that included appearances at four receptions in Syracuse and Elmira, N.Y., and Washington, D.C., a student picnic at Elmira College, two addresses, and attendance at an Italian-American dinner in Washington along with running mate Walter Mondale, President Reagan and Vice President Bush. ''We must not turn our back on peaceful solutions out of fear of negotiation,'' Ferraro told an audience of several hundred at Syracuse University. ''I want to see an administration that stops spending so much on weapons for other country and starts ... spending more money on education for our people here at home.''

The Democratic vice presidential candidate said the administation has ''basic questions'' that have not been answered about its Central American operations.

''Where are the 'contras' (the Nicaraguan rebels) getting their money to continue their war? The Congress has refused to support covert activity, so where are they getting the money?'' she asked.

Ferraro said she wants to know how private volunteers from the United States, like the two killed in the shooting down of a helicopter in Nicaragua recently, were 'able to get arms to Central America, in possible violation of United States law? What plans are there to send more United States advisers to El Salvador?''

Such questions, Ferraro said, must be answered before election day.

Ferraro also attacked Bush's defense Friday of the president's Middle East policy. Speaking to Jewish supporters in Washington, D.C., Bush said, ''I believe America did the right and courageous thing in Lebanon,'' by sending in the Marines ''to give peace a chance.''

Said Ferraro, ''This administration's policies in Central America worry me more when I think about its policies in the Middle East.

''Just yesterday George Bush defended the administration's decision to send Marine's to Lebanon,'' she said. ''Now I simply don't know how he can stand up and defend a policy that cost the lives of 250 brave young men for no purpose.

''Those men were sent on a mission that was never explained and they died for a reason that no one has ever understood. Now, that's not a policy to be defended,'' she said. ''It's a lesson to be learned.''

CONTINUED